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Letter dated 5 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 3 March 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union on the presidential elections in Nigeria (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Dieter **Kastrup**
Permanent Representative of
Germany to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the presidential elections in Nigeria, issued on 3 March 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the holding of presidential elections in Nigeria on 27 February 1999. These elections represent a significant step on the way to the installation of a democratically elected civilian Government after 15 years of military rule in Nigeria, which will end with the handing over of power to the democratically elected civil President on 29 May 1999.

The European Union welcomes the fact that, according to reports from its observers, the voting procedures were held on the basis of a multi-party system and universal suffrage and were based on democratic principles. The European Union congratulates the people of Nigeria on an election which was held in a spirit of openness and which proceeded peacefully. It appeals to all parties concerned to accept and honour the results that generally reflect the wish of the Nigerian people. The European Union notes with satisfaction that despite tight deadlines and difficult organizational conditions the Independent Electoral Commission was able to organize the election in such a way as to enable the Nigerian majority of voters to express their will. However, a number of serious irregularities were encountered and should be investigated.

The European Union is aware that the newly elected President and his Government have a major task before them. The European Union assures the Nigerian people and Government of its willingness to continue to promote political and economic reforms and its readiness to cooperate with the elected authorities towards strengthening the rule of law, respect for human rights and good governance in Nigeria. The European Union hopes that the new Government, in the interest of the entire country, will be able to succeed in reconciling all those who opposed each other in the past, and will thus lead Nigeria to a better future and enable it to assume its due role in the international community of States and peoples.

The Central and Eastern European countries and Cyprus associated with the European Union and the countries of the European Free Trade Association members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.

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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 8 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 8 March 1999, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 8 March 1999 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 9, 16, 24 February and 1 March 1999 (A/53/824-S/1999/137, A/53/832-S/1999/164, A/53/842-S/1999/206 and A/53/848-S/1999/218, respectively), addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic".

I would like to recall that similar charges on so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 26 January 1999 (A/53/808-S/1999/80). Suffice it to say that flights within the sovereign airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State over which the usurper regime in the South has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

The repeated allegations made by the Greek Cypriot administration demonstrate that it is not prepared to acknowledge the present reality of the existence of two sovereign States which will constitute the framework of a new partnership settlement in Cyprus. Instead, the Greek Cypriot administration has opted for a reckless policy of escalation and tension on the island through an unprecedented build-up of arms and armed forces within the context of the "joint military doctrine" with Greece. It is noteworthy in this context that, according to the Strategic Studies Center in South Cyprus, in 1998 the Greek Cypriot administration spent 5.5 per cent of GDP on armaments, putting its military expenditure as a percentage of GDP above that of NATO and European Union countries. On a per capita basis, the Greek Cypriot administration ranks among the highest in the world, with each Greek Cypriot "laying out $756 a year on defence, compared to $553 for the Middle East, $526 for Greece and a mere $131 for Turkey" (Greek Cypriot daily The Cyprus Mail of 24 February 1999).

Moreover, the latest developments pertaining to the capture in Nairobi of terrorist leader Abdullah Ocalan by Turkish security personnel and his current interrogation in Turkey demonstrates who is in collaboration with the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) terrorist organization and from where it receives support. The fact that Ocalan spent the last several days of his flight from justice at the residence of the Greek Ambassador in Nairobi and that a Greek Cypriot passport was found in his possession at the time of his capture is evidence that the Greek-Cypriot front supports terrorism directed at the Turkish nation. The flurry of statements made by Greek Cypriot political leaders and the disgraceful resolution adopted by the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives on 18 February 1999 in support of the chief terrorist are further concrete proof of the close alliance between PKK and the Greek Cypriot side.

The above-mentioned developments have further deepened the current crisis of confidence between the two sides in Cyprus and, as such, have complicated the

efforts towards finding a settlement. As long as the hostile attitude of the Greek Cypriot side continues, all efforts to achieve progress towards reconciliation between the two States will be in vain.

In view of the foregoing, all parties interested in peace and stability in Cyprus and the region should urge the Greek Cypriot side to desist from the policy of hostility it is pursuing, in collusion with Greece, against guarantor power Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus